Manager (QC) also check the stocks once in a quarter and 10 depots in a month respectively under their respective jurisdiction.

xv. Apart from above, Area Manager of the FCI district, General Manager of the Region and Executive Director of the Zone also inspect 2 depots in a district, 2 depots in a region and at least one depot in the zone respectively once in a month.

xvi. All the Inspection Reports of the above mentioned officers are critically examined at Regional and Zonal level and closely monitored at the FCI, Hqrs. and action on any discrepancy/short fall observed in these reports are promptly taken.

Every case of occurrence of damaged foodgrains is invariably investigated and wherever stocks found damaged due to negligence on the part of officials, stern disciplinary action is taken.

It has, recently been decided that in case of accrual of more than one thousand metric tones of damaged foodgrain, in any region, the FCI Headquarter Vigilance Squad shall scrutinize reascns for accrual of such large scale damage to the foodgrains, for fixation of responsibility on the delinquent officers/officials.

Procurement and Import

2780. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated targets of quantities of wheat, rice and other cereals to be procured during the current procurement season for distribution through PDS to APL and BPL consumers respectively and for creating buffer-stock of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof highlighting its comparison with their procurements targeted and achieved in the related seasons since 2003;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to import wheat during the current year;

(d) if so, the volume of import targeted; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, estimates for procurement of wheat and rice for each Rabi and Kharif Marketing Seasons are drawn up before the start of these marketing seasons, based on estimates given by State Food Secretaries. No estimates for procurement of coarse grains are made.

The estimated and actual procurement of wheat, rice and coarsegrains since 2002-03 is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The Government is keeping all options open, including imports, to meet any exigency, if there is any shortfall in the procurement of wheat in the Rabi Marketing Season 2007-08.

Statement

The estimated and Actual Procurement of Wheat, Rice and Foodgrains since 2002-2003

1. Wheat (In lakh tonnes)

RMS	Estimated Procurement	Actual Procurement
2002-03	226	191
2003-04	208	158
2004-05	203	168
2005-06	180	148
2006-07	162	92
2007-08	151	45.8*

* as on 20.4.2007

2. Rice (in lakh tonnes)

KMS	Estimated Procurement	Actual Procurement
2002-03	165	164
2003-04	226	228
2004-05	225	247
2005-06	230	277
2006-07	270	210*

* as on 20.4.2007

3. Coarsegrains (in lakh tonnes)

KMS	Actual Procurment
2002-03	0.6
2003-04	6.5
2004-05	8.3
2005-06	11.5
2006-07	0.002#

as on 20.4.2007

Ban On Futures Trading

†2781. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impose a ban on futures trading in food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any kind of memorandum etc. in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of Government's reactions thereto and the action taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.